FROM SPARK TO SPACE

HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs -- since 1917

May, 2000 Vol. 08 No. 05

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From the President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP

Dave DeFebo

This upcoming meeting is the return of an auction. It has been at least 10 years since we did an auction. About 20 years ago we did 2 per year. Then as hamfests grew and the supply of good junk dropped, we went to 1 auction per year. Finally when the auction only took 15 minutes we stopped. Due to the popularity of my auctioning off some donated stuff at recent meetings, we have decided to try a general auction again. This is for anyone with any radio/electronics/computer stuff. This is not ebay, don't expect to bring down your old S-line and get anyone to offer thousands for it (or maybe they will). Think of the occasion as an opportunity to get rid of some stuff that you do not feel like getting a hamfest table for. The club appreciates donations, if you wish to donate something to the club we will try to sell it. BUT, the auction is not just for club stuff. We will auction your stuff. We will however take a 10% cut, just to make a few dollars. Look at the auction as a chance to make a couple of bucks, get rid of some stuff and just generally have some fun. Due to the hopefully large amount of good stuff to auction off we will not do any real business at the meeting. I know that disappoints everyone.

continued on page 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670 -	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd shifter's Net
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Computer Net
FRI	8:45 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 meter Station Net (SSB)
FRI	9:15 PM	147.045 ±	W9RH 2 mtr. FM net after the 10 mtr. net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Saturday Nite Fun net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800 +	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910 -	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Swap Net

The 2 meter FM frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter SSB frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho - KA9OFA at **344-4694** or call::

1-(262)-797-MRAC or (797-6722).

HAMATEURCHATTER is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and and a high standard of conduct. MRAC Membership dues are $15.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting with January1.

Our Club/VEC Phone no. is (262) 797-MRAC.

Correspondence may be addressed to:

M. R. A. C.

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 25707
Milwaukee, WI 53225

Our meetings are normally at 7:30 PM.
the last Thursday of the month except for December.

Presidents Desk continued from page 1

June 24 and 25 is Field Day. That is before the June meeting and maybe before the June Chatter. So we will pitch now. We do not go to Field Day to make millions of points. Does that mean we don't care? No, we go to field day to play radio, picnic, and offer people who may not be able to get on HF or other specialized modes an opportunity to give them a try. See the special Field Day notice elsewhere in this issue.

Also in this issue is an order form for a weather radio with a number of neat features. I was asked to include the form and make a pitch for the radio by our new Emergency Coordinator for Milwaukee County. We are all in this together and groups should work together, so I had no problem having the form inserted. The Sullivan Weather Service Radio Club gets a cut from the sale of the radios. The money is being used to equip the ham station at the weather service (did you know there is a ham station at the weather service?). The weather service depends on amateur radio for their severe weather reporting. If you want a weather radio why not buy this one?

We will take a few minutes at the May meeting to have elections. Nominations were at the April meeting. Getting someone to run for an office was almost more painful than going to the dentist. When I asked for nominations, I never heard it so quiet in the hall. After a lot of threats we finally got one name for each office. That will make the election easy. 2000 marks the 83rd year the club has been in operation. In 83 years we have had 45 different people as President. Only in the last 10 years or so has the President been elected to a 2 year term (prior to that, the term was one year and some people did serve only 1 year). Do the math to see how many terms some people have served as president. Now I don't expect everyone to want to run for President (but in 2 years there better be someone), but what about director(?). Now, I realize people's lives are much more complicated in 2000 than they were in 1950, but there must be someone out there who wants to get involved in running the club. In order for the club to be around for another 83 years, it needs leadership. While everyone on the board does a great job, sometimes people want a break. Sometimes it is good to get some new blood and new ideas on the board. We on the board are not just doing this for ourselves but for all members. Show us we are not here just to amuse ourselves.

Somewhat related to elections, Al Drobac AA9XH has resigned his position as Director (term until 6/2001) due to family commitments. John Merkl WB9PSE volunteered to take over the position. The official Presidential Finger has appointed John. Thanks to him for volunteering (he probably felt sorry for me trying to get nominations). Thanks also to Al for the year he did serve on the board. He will continue to handle the 2Meter nets. I hope everything works out for Al. By the way, Al was first licensed and joined the club only a few years ago. Already he has had the meeting refreshment job, 2Meter net control coordinator, and director. Thanks Al.

Remember, bring some stuff to sell (and some money to buy) to the auction. See you there (bring a friend too) and don't forget Field Day either (and buy a weather radio too).

David B. DeFebo

Wanted

Looking for 19" rack shelves and other rack stuff (cabinets not needed right now).
Thanks...
Dave - WB9BWP
529-5583 or Email
"Dave DeFebo"
wb9bwp@execpc.com

MRAC Board Meeting 4/24/Y2K

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Location of the May (Board) meeting at Jim's QTH and June meeting. Barb is checking site and reservations.

VEC news - John, KF9XL will act as backup for Tom when Tom is on vacation. Kate has also volunteered to learn the data entry process. John also reports that testing and paperwork sessions went O.K. They had some trouble with accuracy on 3 people but every effort was made to clear it up. Brian - K9LCQ, has purchased the club's new banner. The final cost was $157.00. It looks great!

Tom - KF9PU, has offered to run for re-election as director.

Roger Zaun - W9UVV told us that he will volunteer to help anyone who has questions about Amateur Radio. Dave - WB9BWP, will start an official volunteer list. John - KF9XL, suggested that we make Roger the Chairman of the volunteer help group. The Chatter will be out via electronic mail. You will need Adobe PDF file reader to look at it (which can be downloaded from the Internet).

The new club Roster will be out in the June Chatter.

The elections are in May. Five officers and 4 directors are needed. Plus one director to complete Dick's term. Dick resigned for health reasons. Dave will appoint someone to this position.

The club P.O. Box must be renewed in a couple months. We may choose a new location closer to one of the officers.

May is also the club auction night. The club will ask for 10% of the proceeds. The seller can set a minimum starting price.

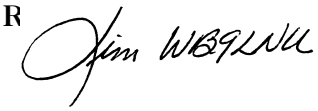
The Board had a lengthy discussion on holding future classes for Tech and General class licenses. We need a location and teachers.

The repeater survey says basically to leave things as they are, except to add our old controller back on the system and keep looking for a new location that will give the best coverage with the equipment that we now have.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Thanks to Barb for the use of her QTH and the goodies.

R



Jim - WB9LNU,
Secretary

MRAC Club Meeting 4/27/00

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurer's report;
Liquid assets - $4,268.26
Total with CD - $9,268.26.

Anyone who has renewed their membership and is not receiving the Chatter, please let Brian - K9LCQ know and he will make the necessary corrections to his list.

The mic was passed for all to ID.

Dave - WB9BWP, our president showed the new banner which Brian - K9LCQ, had made. The banner will be used at swapfests and field day, etc.

Dave will also be sending a letter to AES for all their nice deeds at testing and providing a club table. AES also provided the VE test team with a free lunch.

VEC news, John, KF9XL, Says the FCC decided to still use the ULS system for now. The new CORS system is temporally on hold. You can now access the ULS system directly via your computer for address changes.

The Memorial Day weekend will be the last test session for the summer. Testing will resume in the fall.

May meeting night is the club auction night. The club will ask 10% of your selling price.

The program for the evening was canceled in favor of more chat time between the members.

Vern - W9RYA, is checking out the Patio Club for this year's Christmas party.

Dave - WB9BWP read some of the repeater surveys sent in. The survey basically said to leave things as they are, except for a better location and add the old controller back on the system.

Dave auctioned off more goodies. This time they were donated by Roger - W9UVV.

Roger offered to help any member that has any technical questions about ham radio. It was suggested that a technical help group be established and a list of the members offering help be published in the Chatter.

Nominations for next month's elections.

Officers

President	Dave - WB9BW
1st V.P.	Matt - KB9PRC
2nd V.P.	Brian - K9LCQ
Treasurer	Les - KB9QZQ
Secretary	Jim - WB9LNU

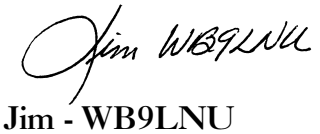
Directors;

Ken	W9MOT
Wil	W9ZOL
Mark	KB9LDX
Tom	KF9PU
Kate	KA9MWT

Dave has appointed John Merkl to fill in for Al as Director who resigned for health reasons.

Thanks to our kitchen crew for the soda and donuts.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

Enhancement of ULS Site

Donna Scott of the FCC tells me that starting Monday hams will be able to access their accounts and perform basic changes (name, address, etc.) through the ULS web site. This capability was supposed to be available when ULS was launched, but apparently someone forgot to write the necessary code.

Anyway, they plan to add a button to the site's home page that will permit this activity. It will be called Online Access or some like that..

Tom

P.S. Congratulations to John for completing Course 1 in Data Filing 101. He eagerly awaits his next session when he gets to learn about encrypting files!

Tom - KF9PU
One of our two VEC's
at a recent meeting.

Wanted

NIXIE TUBES

Wanted: New or Used Nixie tubes as well as equipment with NIXIE tube displays. Equipment may be dead or alive. What have you? Call Matt - 475-6404.

New Director Appointed

Hi all,

After the tooth pulling session of trying to get people to run for office, John Merkl WB9PSE, jmer@execpc.com volunteered to take the spot open by Al Drobac's resignation. In an effort to make the "elections" easier, I used the Presidential finger and appointed him, so welcome back to John (he was on the board a few years back) as a director until June 2001.

73,

Dave WB9BWP

Doings

May Meeting

Our May meeting will feature Election of Officers and three directors AND our famous Auction whereby you bring your treasures and we auction them off for you. Come to the meeting and sell or buy and help elect our new slate of officers.

Field Day 2,000

June 24th and 25th is Field Day at Pioneer Village in Cedarburg. We still need a Field Day chairperson (coordinator). We could also use some more operators for the Field Day stations (any licensed operator can do it).

Come on out for this event -- Join the fun!

Note!

This event is just before our June meeting.

Latest VE Testing

MRAC VEC held VE testing on April 29, 2000 at AES. There were 36 candidates, and 33 were successful in earning their first license or in upgrading.

Only 10 elements were given, and 7 passed. The following 15 VE's gave of their time and talent to make the session a success:

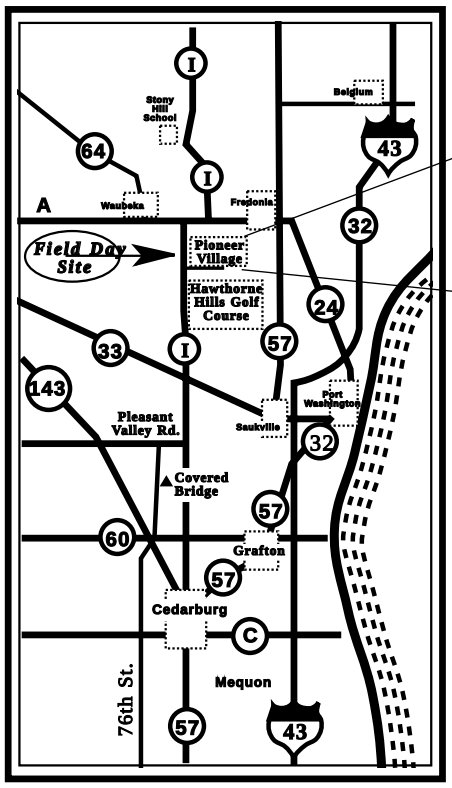
Barbara Brewer KB9TIV
Mark Bye KB9LDX
Ken Caruso KS4NX
Tom Czaja KG9EE
Bob Immekus W9CYI
Kate Kedney KA9MWT
John Kraak KF9XL
Will Lorenz W9ZOL
Dick McNew WB9PTC
Norm McNew KB9QL
Patrick Moretti KA9RB
Gary Payne N9VE
Sherm Swanson KB9Q
Jerry Thompson WA9SFH
Jim Tromblay WB9LNU

Our next test session is May 27, 2000. This will be our last test session until September 30, 2000.

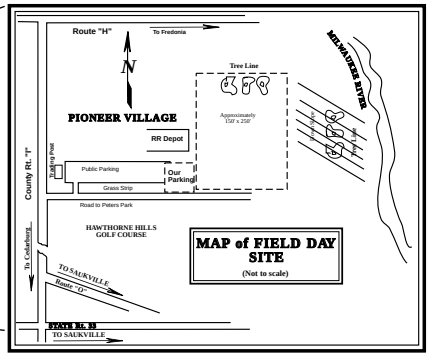
John (KF9KL)

John - KF9XL
One of our two VEC's
at a recent meeting.

Field Day 1999 site.



Map to our Field Day site



Welcome to our Y2K Field Day Site

Sat. and Sun. - June 26 & 27

It's an over night affair, so if you're so inclined, spend some evening or early morning hours with us!

Talk in frequency is:
147.045 MHz + W9RH repeater

Discover Field Day

Field Day is a time in June (usually the last weekend) set aside for fun and to see how we might do in an emergency,. communications-wise.

This is an ARRL National event.

The group will get together and set up at least one station (probably more) on emergency power, (preferably out in the boondocks somewhere) and at 1800 UTC on Sat. they will start operating and gathering as many points (contacts) as possible.

Points are given for contacts with extra points being given for solar power, packet station contacts, etc.

On Sun. at noon, we stop operating and everything is taken down by Jim Tromblay - WB9LNU and whoever else he can round up. Jim gets the fun of storing away all of our Club Field Day equipment and calculating the points that our Club has earned.

It's a lot of fun and you learn a lot about your Club, Club members, operating a radio on VHF, HF and on various modes of communications (with which you may or may not be acquainted). You would even get a chance to see our famous ladder tower which is erected with a rotator and beam antenna on top.

Plans are shaping up for this year's ARRL Field Day. Brian White - K9LCQ: KB9LCQ@arrl.net is the chairman of the Field Day Committee for this year. If any of you out there would like to help out at the event, it would be greatly appreciated. Help is needed to set up, operate our station(s), and tear down. If interested, please, call Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP (529-5583) or (797-MRAC) . If you have a license but no equipment to operate or would like to try out a new mode, here's your chance to get your feet wet. Also, here's an opportunity to set up a quasi-emergency radio station and to operate HF and VHF equipment from an authentic train depot, complete with telegraph equipment and a caboose. In the past we've had HF, VHF, CW, SSB, packet, and APRS stations. Think of it as an adventure!!!

Meals will be provided. Sleeping accommodations are a bit rough (depot benches - not very comfortable), so please, bring whatever you might be comfortable in (cot,blanket, sleeping bag, pillow, mosquito repellent). There is plenty of parking space, too.

This year's Field Day takes place on Sat. - June 24 through Sun. - June 25 (officially, 1:00 PM our time on Sat. through 1:00 PM our time on Sun). We will be starting to setup between 8:30 AM. The location (arranged for by Fred Linn - W9NZF) is at Pioneer Village 10 mi. north of Cedarburg on Hwy "I".

Come on out for a couple of hours, over night, or for the whole event.

While you're out there, why not bring the family and visit the rest of Pioneer Village? It's well worth seeing.

Pancho - KA9OFA

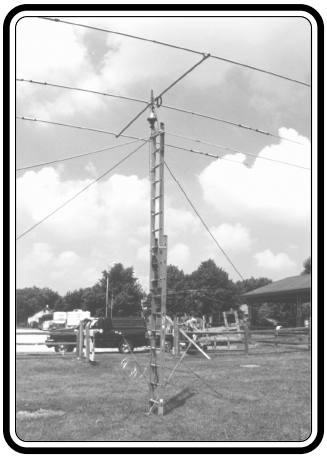
P.S. Jim informs me that we will need CW operators because Fred has a bum thumb.

Field Day Photos

Ken - W9Mot and Bill - W9WCF
Making a few contacts.

Chow time under the canopy at the Cedarburg Depot at Pioneer Village

Jacki e - KB9LDW and John -WB9PSE
Hanging dipoles.



Tower and beam antenna complete!

Our CW Crew
Will - W9ZOL, Fred - W9NZF,
Barb - KB9TIV

Erecting the Ladder Tower takes cooperation.

Credits

Thanks to our news contributors this month:

KB9BWP K9LCQ WA9SFH K9HMQ WB9LNU KF9XL KF9PU

We would also like to thank Alfred Huwald, and Myron Hendricks for taking care of the refreshments at our meetings.

Thanks to Rita Doneis, Armin doneis III, and Julie Doneis for their help in the proofreading dept.

Our thanks goes to John Merkl and Barbara Brewer for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

Also our thanks goes to Tom Scherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for handling the Raffle at the meetings.

Many thanks!!

As presented in the May issue of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club newsletter, HamateurChatter

Buy a Weather Alert Monitor From Us and Your Dollars Support Skywarn

Here's a great opportunity for you to get a Midland #74-200 Digital Weather/All Hazard Alert Monitor at the same price (or less) than you'd pay in the store with the profits going toward the volunteer Skywarn support program at Sullivan, WI.

The Sullivan Weather Amateur Radio Association - the same folks that man the radios when severe weather threatens - is offering these radios for a limited time. Your radio will be shipped to your door via insured manufacturer's warranty. Warranty terms are available upon request. This offer is not being made by NOAA or the Sullivan Office, NWS. We are a non-profit group of amateur radio operators, affiliated with the national Amateur Radio Emergency Service, who use their own equipment and volunteer their time to provide communications in support of the Sullivan NWS and local disaster service agencies. All proceeds will be used to support the local program.

Here's how to order. Simply fill out the form below and enclose your check, payable to "Sullivan Weather Amateur Radio Assn."

Name _____

Shipping Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone [_____] _____

Please, send me _____ Midland model 74-200 Alert Monitors @ $59.95 plus $4.95 shipping each.

Total amount enclosed $ _____

Mail to:

Sullivan Weather Amateur Radio Assn., P.O. Box 167, Hartland, WI 53029-0167

For more info check out the link http://skywarn.wwoc.org/swara/same_decoder/

BIRTHDAYS

June Birthdays

	Birthdate
Myron W. Hendrickson KA9MWV	6/7
William D. Jones ---------- KF9FA	6/9

73,

Brian - K9LCQ

¡¡Happy Birthday !!

events (upcoming)

* indicates VE testing

Princeton HamFest and Computer Show
Sun. - Jun. 4, 2000
Bureau Co. Fairgrounds
Princeton, IL
T/I on 146.955- PL 103.5

North Central Missouri Hamfest *
Sat. - June 10, 2000
Macon R-I Vo-Tech School
Macon, MO
GPS N 39° 44.8' W 092° 27.9'
T/I on 146.805 (-)

Eau Claire HamFest *
Sat. - Jun. 10, 2000
Eau Claire Co. Exposition Ctr.
Eau Claire, WI

Six Meter Club of Chicago, Inc.
43rd Hamfest *
Sun. - Jun. 11, 2000
DuPage Co. Fairgrounds
Wheaton, IL

ARRL Field Day
June 24 & 25, 2000
Pioneer Village
10 mi North of Cedarburg, WI on Hwy I

SMARC SwapFest '00
Sat. - July 8, 2000
American Legion Post 434
Oak Creek, WI
T/I on 146.52 simp

RadioFest XIX
Fri.-Sun. Aug. 4-6, 2000
Ramada Hotel
Elgin, IL

4th Annual!!
Circus City SwapFest *
Sat. - Aug. 12, 2000
Sauk Co. Fairgrounds
Baraboo, WI
T/I on147.315 Repeater (+) PL 123.0

SummerFest 2,000 *
Sun - Aug. 13, 2000
Amana Colonies Convention Center
Amana, Iowa

MRAC

This Month's meeting:

Thu. - May 25, 2000 (Y2K)

7:30 PM

Program: Video Documentary
"Transistorized"

Location: Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church
for information!!!

Board meeting: Mon. -May 22, 2000

Next meeting: June 29, 2000

HamateurChatter
Deadline is
June 1, 2000

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Our Phone number
(262) 797-MRAC
(797-6722)

M.R.A.C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 25707
Milwaukee, WI 53225

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Phone (262) 797-MRAC -- Use our Club Repeater - W9RH 147.045+ offset